P30682.A01

REMARKS

By the above amendment, the claims have been amended to delete

multiple claim dependency, and to remove means-plus-function recitations.

The Abstract has been amended to remove reference numbers to conform more

closely to U.S. practice. The amendments made herein have not been made to

overcome the prior art, and thus, should be considered to have been made for a

purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach

thereto.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, Yoshikazu NAKAYAMA et al.

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